* instead of starting from an a *priori* proposition about the linking of rivers, proceed from the water needs of each areas, consider all the available options, and choose the best;

* focus on efficient, harmonious sustainable intra-basin water management first before thinking of importing external water, reach the stage of basin-planning before considering inter-basin transfers;

* where a river-linking or long-distance water-transfer proposal seems *prima facie* worth considering, get a thorough, professional feasibility report prepared in a fully inter-disciplinary manner, internalizing not techno-economic but also environmental, human, social, equity, 'gender' and other relevant aspects and concerns, and put it through a comprehensive, inter-disciplinary, rigorous and stringent process of detailed examination, appraisal and approval;

* let such a project or projects emerge from and be an integral part of the planning process, rather than be foisted on that process and pre-empt attention and resources from necessary and urgent activities; and

* take up "on a war-footing" (in the Prime Minister's words) a national project of extensive, community-led rainwater-harvesting (wherever feasible) and watershed development, as also of the revival and re-activation of tranditional systems of water harvesting, conservation and management (tanks, ahars and pynes, johads, etc.), in pursuance of the Prime Minister's clarion call at the meeting of the NWRC on 1 April 2002.

Revision of National Water Policy

1012. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
DR. AKHILESH DAS:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed and revised the National Water Policy to incorporate the goal of inter-linking of national rivers; and

(b) if so, the details of the revised policy, if any, since drawn and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) The provision in National Water Policy (2002) in respect of Water Resoruces Planning include:

"3.5. Water should be made available to water short areas by transfer from other areas including transfers from one river basin to another, based on a national perspective, after taking into account the requirements of the areas/basins."

The matter of inter-linking of rivers is duly covered under above provision. Hence need for any revision in this regard is not felt necessary at this stage.

(b) Does not arise.

Project for ground water recharge

1013. SHRI N.R. DASARI:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Sector Scheme of "study of recharge of ground water" launched during the Ninth Five Year Plan Period is being continued during the Tenth Five Year Plan Period; and

(b) if so, the details of the projects approved under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Central Sector on "Study of Recharge to Ground Water" launched during the IX Five Year Plan at an estimated cost of Rs. 25.00 crores is being continued for the first 2 years of the X Five Year Plan at a revised cost of Rs. 35.81 crore. State-wise details of recharge projects approved under the scheme are given in Statement.